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General Assembly
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Agenda items 20 (b), 21 (j), 22, 26, 39, 48, 74 (g), (h), (l), (q) and (w), 95, 96, 97, 98 (e), 99, 103, 107, 108, 110, 111, 119 (b) and 166

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

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Towards global partnerships

Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

General and complete disarmament: assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them; consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures; relationship between disarmament and development; illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons; small arms

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Sectoral policy questions

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Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

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Operational activities for development

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 26 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the final communiqué adopted at the conclusion of the twenty-fifth session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), held at Dakar on 20 and 21 December 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 20 (b), 21 (j), 22, 26, 39, 48, 74 (g), (h), (l), (q) and (w), 95, 96, 97, 98 (e), 99, 103, 107, 108, 110, 111, 119 (b) and 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Papa Louis **Fall**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 26 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Twenty-fifth session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government (Dakar, 20 and 21 December 2001)

Final Communiqué

Dakar, December 2001

1. The Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held its twenty-fifth ordinary session in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 20 and 21 December 2001. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konaré, President of the Republic of Mali, current Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

2. Present at the session were the following heads of State and Government or their duly accredited representatives:

His Excellency Mathieu Kérékou
President of the Republic of Benin

His Excellency Blaise Compaoré
President of Burkina Faso

His Excellency Yahya Jammeh
President of the Republic of the Gambia

His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor
President of the Republic of Ghana

His Excellency Koumba Yalla
President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konaré
President of the Republic of Mali
Current ECOWAS Chairman

His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

His Excellency Abdoulaye Wade
President of the Republic of Senegal

His Excellency Ahmad Tejan Kabbah
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema
President of the Togolese Republic

Hon. Jose Maria Pereira Neves
Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Republic of Cape Verde

Hon. Lamine Sidimé
Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea representing the President of the Republic

Hon. Abou Drahamane Sangare
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire representing the President of the Republic

Hon. Monie R. Captan
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia representing the President of the Republic

Hon. Mrs. Mindaoudou Aichatou
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Niger representing the President of the Republic

3. The following personalities also attended the twenty-fifth session as observers:

Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU/African Union);

Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

President of the Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA);

Chairman, Committee of Governors of Central Banks of West Africa, Governor of the Central Bank of the Gambia;

President of the African Business Roundtable (ABR);

Representative of the African Development Bank (ADB);

Representative of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC);

Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO);

Representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF);

as well as other personalities representing West African, African and international organizations.

4. A list of participants is attached as an annex.

Tribute to the late President Léopold Sedar Senghor

5. The Authority learned with regret the death of President Léopold Sedar Senghor, a Founding Father of ECOWAS. The heads of State and Government paid glowing tribute to the illustrious leader for his exceptional contribution to the emancipation of Africa in general, and to the construction of ECOWAS in particular. A minute of silence was observed in memory of the late President, and the Authority addressed its sincerest condolences to the Senegalese and the African peoples on their sad bereavement.

Opening ceremony

6. During the opening ceremony, a welcome address was delivered by His Excellency President Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, a vote of thanks of the heads of State and Government was delivered by His Excellency President John Agyekum Kufuor of the Republic of Ghana, and an opening statement was made by the current Chairman of ECOWAS, His Excellency President Alpha Oumar Konaré of the Republic of Mali. The Authority adopted these keynote addresses as working documents. The heads of State and Government reiterated their commitment to building strong solidarity within ECOWAS as a means of contributing to the realization of the African Union.

7. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of OAU, the Director-General of FAO and the President of the African Business Roundtable sent solidarity messages to the twenty-fifth session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

The African Union

8. The Authority welcomed the entry into force of the Constitutive Act of the African Union which marks a significant step towards the effective integration of the African continent. The Authority appealed to member States to take every necessary measure to ensure the implementation of this historic programme.

New Partnership for Africa's Development

9. The Authority noted with satisfaction the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which constitutes an appropriate instrument for the development and integration of the African economies, and the alleviation of poverty in Africa. The heads of State expressed their gratitude to Presidents Abdoulaye Wade of the Republic of Senegal and Olusegun Obasanjo of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for their invaluable contribution to the formulation of the programme.

10. The Authority directed the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat to bring its policies and programmes into line with those of NEPAD, with a view to creating the synergy that would strengthen ECOWAS and enable it to contribute to the establishment of a strong African Union.

ECOWAS programmes

11. The Authority adopted the reports of the Executive Secretary, the fourth extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers, the forty-eighth session of the Council of Ministers, and the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. These reports focused primarily on the following:

Harmonization of ECOWAS and UEMOA integration programmes;

Free movement of persons;

Implementation of the common market;

Multilateral surveillance of economic policies;

Sectoral programmes for production and infrastructural development;

Human development programmes;

Administrative and financial matters;

Institutional matters;

Regional peace and security.

12. The Authority laid special emphasis on the following economic, institutional, peace and security issues:

Economic issues

13. The Authority reviewed the modalities for the implementation of the strategy for accelerating the regional integration process, whose objective is to establish West Africa as a unified economic zone. The Authority urged all member States to implement the provisions of the ECOWAS trade liberalization scheme within the shortest possible time, and take all necessary measures to prepare their economies for the introduction of the ECOWAS common external tariff, based on the lowest existing customs duties which range from 0 per cent to 20 per cent. In this regard, the Authority noted with satisfaction that the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat and the UEMOA Commission have been organizing meetings for the harmonization of their programmes. The Authority appealed to the chief executives of the two institutions to continue their coordination efforts. The Authority also urged all member States to provide strong support for the actions undertaken within the framework of the ongoing harmonization process.

14. The Authority stressed that the strengthening of the political and economic dimensions of regional integration must be accompanied by appropriate measures for the development of the national economies. In this regard, the Authority welcomed the information that the Republic of Cape Verde expressed its commitment to the effective implementation of ECOWAS programmes. The Authority repeated its directive to the Executive Secretary to submit specific proposals in support of the socio-economic development of island and landlocked countries of the Community (Cape Verde, Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger). The Authority also requested the Executive Secretary to give priority to the promotion of integration programmes with a real poverty alleviation content.

Monetary cooperation programme

15. The Authority expressed appreciation of the unrelenting efforts of the countries in the second monetary zone to adopt a common currency.

16. The Authority called on the ECOWAS Convergence Council, composed of Ministers of Finance and Governors of ECOWAS Central Banks, to ensure the harmonization of the programmes of the second monetary zone and those of the ECOWAS single monetary zone.

17. Consequently, the Authority urged all member States to ensure strict compliance with the ECOWAS macroeconomic convergence criteria, a necessary condition for the establishment of a single and viable monetary zone in West Africa.

18. The Authority adopted the decision relating to the organization of the ECOWAS multilateral surveillance mechanism. To this end, it urged all member States to set up their national coordination committees (NCC) designed to assist the ECOWAS Secretariat and the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) in the compilation and analysis of statistical data necessary for performance evaluation under the convergence criteria.

19. In order to create the appropriate synergy between the CFA zone and the second West African monetary zone (WAMZ), the Authority decided that the name of the future ECOWAS common currency should be jointly determined by the relevant authorities of WAMZ and BCEAO/UMOA, under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Abdoulaye Wade, Chairman of UEMOA and incoming Chairman of ECOWAS.

The ECOWAS passport

20. The Authority commended the Republic of Benin for issuing the ECOWAS passport, and took note of the measures taken by the Republic of Mali to issue the passport in the very near future. The Authority urged all the other member States to take the necessary measures to ensure the introduction of the ECOWAS passport without further delay.

Sectoral policies

Special regional food security programme

21. The Authority adopted the special regional food security programme in recognition of the important role of agriculture in the socio-economic development of member States.

22. The Authority also recognized the relevance of integrated water resource management in West Africa, to the achievement of regional food security, and directed the Executive Secretary to take all necessary measures for the prompt implementation of the regional action programme on the integrated management of water resources. The Executive Secretary was requested to work closely with FAO to mobilize the necessary financial resources from

external partners towards the implementation of this important regional programme.

Cooperation in the energy sector

23. The Authority, concerned by the continuing energy crisis in the region, reaffirmed its determination to build the West African Power Pool which will promote the joint exploitation of the energy resources of the member States and enable them to fulfil their development needs. In order to render the Power Pool operational, the Authority adopted a resource mobilization mechanism to finance the various priority activities of the project.

Private sector promotion

24. The Authority noted with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in the creation of the private regional airline, ECOAIR and the private coastal shipping line, ECOMARINE. The Authority urged the regional promoters to make the projects operational as soon as possible. The Authority also expressed gratitude to the Togolese authorities for the privileges granted to ECOMARINE as a regional coastal shipping line.

25. The Authority directed the Executive Secretary to more fully involve the private sector and civil society in the regional integration process.

Transformation of the ECOWAS Fund for Cooperation, Compensation and Development into a holding company known as the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development

26. The Authority, desirous of enhancing the financial resources of ECOWAS to enable it to finance investments, adopted a supplementary protocol amending articles 1, 3, 6 and 21 of the revised ECOWAS Treaty. "Fund" and "Statutory appointees" in the said articles were replaced by new provisions reflecting the establishment of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and its subsidiaries, namely ECOWAS Regional Investment Bank (ERIB) and ECOWAS Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

27. The Authority appealed to all member States to ratify the Supplementary Protocol amending the ECOWAS Treaty and the Protocol establishing EBID, not later than June 2002.

28. The Authority declared payable the first tranche of the called-up capital of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development, amounting to one hundred and forty million seven hundred thousand thirty-five units of account (UA 140,700,035), representing thirty-five percent (35%) of the regional members' share of the authorized capital.

Regional peace and security

29. The Authority reviewed the political and security situation in the subregion and commended Sierra Leone for the tremendous progress it has made in the restoration of peace and security.

30. The Authority also expressed satisfaction at the efforts by the Government of Sierra Leone and the Joint Committee on Disarmament to implement the demobilization, disarmament and rehabilitation (DDR) programme. In addition, the Authority congratulated the Government of Sierra Leone for the efforts made towards the organization of elections in May 2002.

31. The Authority made a strong appeal to the international community to assist the Government of Sierra Leone to complete the disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation of ex-combatants and to resolve the humanitarian problems and promote the resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees, displaced persons and ex-combatants. The donors were urged to provide the necessary financial assistance for the resolution of these problems.

Situation in the Mano River region

32. The Authority took note of the evolution of the situation in the Mano River region, and expressed its satisfaction at the positive developments in the zone. The Authority appealed to member States of the region to intensify the dialogue they had initiated, in order to restore lasting peace. In this regard, the Authority congratulated the Mano River women's network for the initiative taken towards the re-establishment of dialogue between the three countries of the Union as a means of promoting durable peace in that subregion.

Liberia

33. Expressing deep concern about the continued rebel attacks against the Government of Liberia, especially in Lofa County, and the attendant risks of destabilization, the Authority strongly condemned the

activities of armed rebels in Liberia and approved the sanctions envisaged against these armed movements, particularly the Liberian Front for Reconciliation and Democracy (LFRD). The Authority requested the Liberian Government to furnish all necessary information to the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council for the imposition of the said sanctions.

34. The Authority also expressed concern about the repercussions of the United Nations sanctions on the people of Liberia and expressed the view that the Government of Liberia needed assistance that would enable it to embark on economic and social reconstruction of the country.

35. The Authority called on the Government of Liberia to initiate a national reconciliation policy that would involve all sections of the society. To that end, the Authority expressed the willingness of the Community to provide the necessary assistance.

Guinea-Bissau

36. The Authority expressed support for the ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction process in Guinea-Bissau and called on the international community to honour its financial pledges.

Côte d'Ivoire

37. The Authority expressed satisfaction at the convening of the national reconciliation forum by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the encouraging results achieved. It urged the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to continue its efforts to consolidate these achievements, with a view to ensuring genuine reconciliation among the Ivorian citizens.

Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution

38. The Authority noted with satisfaction that the organs established under the ECOWAS Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution had become operational. The Authority appealed to Member States which had not yet done so, to take every necessary measure to ratify the relevant Protocol. The Authority also expressed its profound gratitude to the European Union, the Governments of Canada and the United States of America, the United Nations, and all other partners, for assisting ECOWAS in establishing the conflict prevention mechanism.

39. The Heads of State and Government noted with satisfaction the progress made in the area of democracy in the region. In order to consolidate the gains made, the Authority adopted the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance to further promote democracy, the rule of law and human rights in Member States as well as prevent conflicts.

Human trafficking

40. To combat the rising incidence of human trafficking in the region, the Authority adopted the Political Declaration and Initial Plan of Action Against Human Trafficking and appealed to Member States to effectively implement the provisions of the declaration and plan of action. The Authority also expressed its gratitude to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention Centre for its contribution to the elaboration of the working documents on human trafficking.

Rights of the West African child

41. The Heads of State and Government, expressing particular concern at the violence meted out to children particularly in conflict zones and by the suffering endured by handicapped children, declared the adherence to the inalienable principles of the African Charter for the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In this connection, they declared the period from 2001 to 2010 "The Decade of the ECOWAS Child".

Protocol on the Fight against Corruption

42. Desirous of eradicating the scourge of corruption which seriously undermines the development efforts of Member States, the Authority adopted the Protocol on the Fight against Corruption and appealed to all the governments of the Community to abide by the provisions of the protocol and promote cross-border cooperation in this area.

The Fight against Terrorism

43. Considering that terrorism constitutes a serious threat to world peace and security, the Authority strongly condemned the terrorist attacks recently carried out against the United States and urged all Member States to ratify, within the shortest time possible, all the United Nations and OAU conventions on terrorism, the United Nations Convention on

Transnational Organized Crime, and the ECOWAS conventions on mutual assistance in legal matters and extradition. The Authority also called on Member States to implement the provisions of the Dakar Declaration on terrorism.

Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering

44. The Authority took note of the opening of the GIABA Secretariat in Dakar, and called on Member States to take all necessary measures to render this institution operational and equip it to combat money-laundering and all related crimes effectively.

Moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms

45. The Authority expressed satisfaction at the extension of the moratorium for a period of three years and called on Member States to fulfil their commitments within the framework of the Code of Conduct for the application of the Moratorium.

46. The Authority directed the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to mobilize the funds for the execution of activities envisaged under the Moratorium.

Mediation and Security Council

47. The Authority adopted the new composition of the Mediation and Security Council. The members of the Mediation and Security Council are: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Council of Elders

48. The Authority took note of the report of the inaugural meeting of the Council of Elders held in Niamey from 2 to 4 July 2001 and approved the list of members proposed by the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat.

Institutional issues

49. The Authority expressed satisfaction at the effective establishment of the ECOWAS Court of Justice and Parliament. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need to provide these institutions with adequate manpower and financial resources to enable them to function normally. In this respect, the Authority requested Member States to take necessary measures to ensure the application of the Protocol on the Community levy so as to generate the required financial resources for the Community institutions.

50. The Authority directed the Executive Secretary to undertake a study on the ECOWAS Parliament with the objective of enhancing its powers. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary was requested to initiate a study on the restructuring of the Community institutions within the context of the African Union.

51. The Authority decided to locate the headquarters of the ECOWAS Parliament and the Court of Justice in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

52. The Authority, recalling, the need to more closely involve the civil society in the integration process, requested the West African Youth Union (WAYU) and the Ministerial Conference on Youth and Sports (MCYS) to harmonize their programmes so as to achieve an effective involvement of the youth in the regional integration process.

The ECOWAS anthem and flag

The anthem

53. The Authority adopted the lyrics of the ECOWAS anthem. However, the Executive Secretary was requested to review it so as to shorten it and reduce the long pause between the two verses.

The flag

54. The Authority directed the Executive Secretary to organize another competition on the ECOWAS flag which should take into account the observations of the jury and conducted under the supervision of the Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority.

Cooperation with development partners

55. The ECOWAS Heads of State and Government reiterated their appreciation to their development partners particularly the OAU, the European Union, USAID, the ADB, ECA, UNDP, the World Bank, the IMF, ITU, FAO, Japan, Canada, Germany and France, for the various forms of support extended by them towards the success of the regional integration process. The Authority directed the Executive Secretary to

continue his efforts at extending ECOWAS cooperation relations to other partners.

Nomination of heads of ECOWAS institutions

The ECOWAS Executive Secretary

56. The Authority nominated Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas of the Republic of Ghana to the post of the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS for a term of four years.

President of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development

57. The Authority requested the Republic of Benin to fill the post of President of ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID).

Financial Controller

58. The Authority requested the Republic of the Gambia to fill the post of Financial Controller.

Tribute to the outgoing Executive Secretary

59. The Authority warmly commended the outgoing Executive Secretary, Mr. Lansana Kouyaté, for the excellent work he had accomplished at the helm of the Community Institutions. The Authority also paid him a glowing tribute for his dynamism and for injecting a new lease of life into the Community and strengthening the regional integration process in Africa.

Election of Chairman of Authority

60. The Heads of State and Government elected His Excellency Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal as the Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

Date and venue of next Summit

61. The next ordinary session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government shall be held in December 2002 at a venue to be determined through consultation.

Vote of thanks

62. The Heads of State and Government expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, for the exemplary leadership he has demonstrated in his promotion of the African Union. They expressed particular appreciation at the brotherly welcome extended to them and the excellent facilities placed at their disposal during their stay in Dakar. The Heads of State expressed their appreciation to President Wade for his role in support of the democratization process in his country, which he has always served with commendable dedication.

63. The Heads of State and Government expressed their best wishes to His Excellency President Wade and also wished peace and prosperity to the brotherly people of Senegal.

Special commendation

The ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government expressed its sincere appreciation to the outgoing Executive Secretary, Mr. Lansana Kouyaté for the invaluable work accomplished by him during his four years at the head of the Executive Secretariat.

The Authority paid tribute to Mr. Kouyaté's faith and determination to share the vision of the Heads of State and to implement their decisions, expressing the view that this strong commitment had contributed incalculably to the acceleration of the West African integration process.

The Authority also expressed its appreciation to the staff of the ECOWAS Secretariat, without whom the Community would not have achieved this measure of success.